

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE 3209

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MR FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIAN
FONMIN

1. FRENCH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC MADE BRIEF PRIVATE VISIT DECEMBER 30 TO MAURITANIA'S CHIEF PORT OF NOUADHIBOU. ALTHOUGH CHIRAC HAD NOT INTENDED TO MEET WITH MAURITANIAN OFFICIALS, FOREIGN MINISTER OULD MOUKNASS MADE SPECIAL TRIP TO NOUADHIBOU TO DISCUSS BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL MATTERS WITH CHIRAC.

2. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO ATTENDED MEETING, COMMENTED TO CHARGE THAT SESSION WENT VERY WELL. CHIRAC WAS IMPRESSED BY SPECIAL EFFORT MADE BY OULD MOUKNASS AND FRENCH WERE REASSURED THAT NATIONALIZATION OF MIFERMA IRON MINES WILL BE FOLLOWED BY APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION. AS THINGS NOW STAND, FRENCH AMBASSADOR EXPECTS AFTERMATH OF MIFERMA NATIONALIZATION TO PROCEED IN BUSINESSLIKE MANNER. UNLESS COMPENSATION BOGS DOWN, FRENCH EMBASSY DOES NOT EXPECT TO BECOME ENMESHED IN MATTER.

3. OULD MOUKNASS BRIEFED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON CHIRAC MEETING DECEMBER 31, FOLLOWING WHICH THE COUNCIL REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED PLEASURE "WITH THE CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS BY THE TWO COUNTRIES
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ON THE NECESSITY FOR FRIENDLY AND FRUITFUL COOPERATION ON

BILATERAL MATTERS AS WELL AS EUROPEAN-ARAB AND EUROPEAN-AFRICAN
RELATIONS."SHINN

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